

Claim 1 (twice amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

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controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency of substantially 27 MHz.

Claim 2 (amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body;

controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given frequency; and

selecting the given frequency from the group consisting of an adjustable frequency and a regulated frequency.

Claim 4 (twice amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body;

controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency by adjusting the switching frequency in a range from 3 Hz to 27 MHz.

Claim 5 (twice amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions,
accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions
into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

controlling an outgoing flux of electrons by adjusting a
switching frequency to substantially 50 kHz.

Claim 14 (twice amended). A method of cleaning a surface of
an article having a metallic base body, the method which
comprises:

initially heating the article without a gas for forming a
plasma;

adding the gas for forming the plasma;

generating the plasma from the gas with electrically
positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the
article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for
cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

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controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact
with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference
potential via a switch at a given switching frequency.

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